

Message Text

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14

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 H-02 HEW-08 SCI-06

RSR-01 /093 W

----- 019382

R 100841 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3098

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2794

PASS AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, IN

SUBJ: JIMSON WEEK SEED IN MILO IMPORTED FROM US

REF: STATE 42280

BEGIN SUMMARY

EMBOFF MET GOI OFFICIALS MARCH 9 FURTHER DISCUSS
PRESENCE JIMSON WEEK SEED IN IMPORTED MILO. GOI WOULD
LIKE ASSISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON IN SOLVING PROBLEM AND
ENSURING FUTURE SHIPMENTS MILO FROM US (ABOUT 400,000
TONS) FREE OF JIMSON WEED SEED. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD
APPRECIATE WASHINGTON' S RESPONSE TO POINTS RAISED PARAS
1, 2 AND 3. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFF HAD MEETING GOI OFFICIALS MARCH 9 ON ABOVE SUBJECT.
AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY ENDEAVORING REMOVE JIMSON WEED SEED FROM
MILO BY SCREENING. SOME SCREENING BEING DONE AT PORTS BUT
MAJOR QUANTITY OF MILO CONTAINING JIMSON SEED MUST BE CLEANED
AT FLOUR MILLS. THIS REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE TIME AND ADDED
COST IN SACKING AND TRANSPORTING MILO TO AND FROM FLOUR MILLS.
SCREENING LOSSES THUS FAR AVERAGING ABOUT 15 PERCENT WHICH
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MAKES TOTAL COST MILO AMOST PROHIBITIVE. GOI OFFICIALS STATE 60,000 TONS US MILO RECEIVED THUS FAR WITH SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 400,000 TONS MILO YET TO ARRIVE FROM US MOST OF WHICH NOT YET LOADED. THEY ARE ASKING IF US GOVERNMENT CAN OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE ENSURING THAT FUTURE SHIPMENTS MILO FREE OF JIMSON SEED. THEY BELIEVE PURCHASE CONTRACT WITH EXPORTER SPECIFIES FOODGRAINS (AS CONTRASTED FEEDGRAINS) AND SUGGEST THIS POINT CAN BE CHECKED WITH BANERJEE OF INDIA SUPPLY MISSION. COPY OF CONTRACT NOT YET AVAILABLE IN DELHI. IF CONTRACTS DO SPECIFY FOODGRAINS GOI OFFICIALS WONDER IF FOOD AND DRUG ACT CONCERNING PRESENCE OF TOXIC MATERIAL WOULD APPLY TO US FOOD EXPORTS ON SOME BASIS AS FOR INTER- STATE MOVEMENT OF FOOD AND/ OR US FOOD IMPORTS. REQUEST WASHINGTON' S GUIDANCE THIS QUESTION.

2. MANAGER OF QUALITY CONTROL IN FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA ASKED IF WASHINFONT COULD SEND EXPERT TO INDIA DURING NEXT 15 DAYS TO MAKE ON THE SPOT OBSERVATIONS AND HOPEFULLY ASSIST IN DEVELOPING SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. NO COMMITMENTS WERE IMPLIED BUT WOULD WELCOME WASHINGTON' S VIEWS THIS REQUEST.

3. THERE STILL APPEARS TO BE A GAP IN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USDA' S STATEMENTS ON TOXICITY JIMSON SEED (PARA 6 REFTTEL) AND REPORTS REACHING DELHI. SUGGEST USDA MAKE ITS POSITION CLEAR TO BANERJEE AND URGE HIM CONVEY THIS POSITION TO DELHI THRU SUPPLY MISSION CHANNELS.

4. COMMENTS: EMBASSY APPRECIATES FACT MILO PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT WITH US EXPORTER IS PRIVATE CONTRACT BETWEEN SELLER AND BUYER AND THAT USG SHOULD NOT INTERVENE AS MIDDLE-MAN. WE ARE BEING CAUTIOUS MAINTAIN THIS POSITION.

5. AS PRACTICAL MATTER EMBASSY DOUBTS FEASIBILITY GOI FURTHER CLEANING APPROXIMATELY 480,000 TONS MILO PURCHASED IN US BEFORE DISTRIBUTION TO RETAIL OUTLETS. ALSO EMBASSY BELIEVES ADDITIONAL PURCHASES FOODGRAIN BY GOI WILL BE NECESSARY DURING FUTURE WEEKS OR MONTHS. IF US ONLY MAJOR SOURCE OF MILO AT PRESENT TIME, IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR GOI MAKE ADDITIONAL PURCHASES UNTIL JIMSON SEED PROBLEM RESOLVED. POSSIBLY ANSWER THIS QUESTION WITH REFERENCE ADDITIONAL PURCHASES CAN BE DEVELOPED IN ANY NEW PURCHASE AGREEMENTS WHEREBY PRESENCE OF JIMSON WEED SEEDS SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED BUT THIS DOES NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOLVE PROBLEM IMMEDIATELY AT HAND.

MOYNIHAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE02794
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
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